



894

DEC '10



LEX LUTHOR'S

ACTION

COMICS

PAUL CORNELL

PETE WOODS

DEATH
IN ACTION!



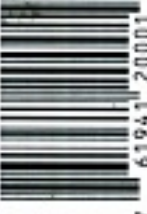
FINCH

2011

SECOND FEATURE

JIMMY OLSEN

by NICK SPENCER & RB SILVA



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894
DEC '10



ACTION COMICS



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PAUL CORNELL
PETE WOODS

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THE BLACK RING

PART FIVE

SO YOU'RE
SAVING...

...THAT'S
ME LYING
THERE?

IT'S YOUR
BODY.



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pete woods

artist

brad anderson

colorist

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letterer

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batt & peter

steigerwald

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p. craig russell

variant cover

wil moss

asst. editor

matt idelson

editor

very special thanks to
neil galman

superman

created by

jerry siegel
& **joe shuster**

death created by

neil galman
& **mike**

dringenberg

BORN IN SMALLVILLE
BUT BELIEVING HIMSELF
SUPERIOR, HE MURDERED HIS
FATHER TO ESCAPE SMALL-TOWN AMERICA
AND BUILT AN EMPIRE ON HIS GENIUS.
THE SWORN ENEMY OF SUPERMAN, HE HAS
VOWED THAT THE WORLD WILL TURN ITS
BACK ON THE MAN OF STEEL AND INSTEAD
EMBRACE HUMANITY'S CHAMPION...
AND FUTURE RULER...

LEX LUTHOR



WELL, THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

THAT CAN'T BE THE CASE.

I RECALL BEING SHOT... FALLING...

THIS IS A VERY GOOD DUPLICATE YOU'VE COME UP WITH, WHOEVER YOU ARE. WARM. SOFT LIKE FLESH.

Hmm, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE... BREATHING...

WE'RE OUTSIDE TIME HERE. YOU WOULDN'T SEE THAT ANYWAY.

AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE CLAIMING TO BE DEATH.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE SCYTHE? OR THE SKIS?

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU. IT'S JUST ME.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT MY JOB. I'M DEATH.


YOU'RE TELLING ME DEATH IS A TEENAGE GIRL?

WELL, THAT'S ORIGINAL, AT LEAST.

GIVE ME ONE REASON I SHOULD BELIEVE YOU.


YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HIM.





OKAY, SO
THERE'S THIS
THING I CAN
DO--

--WHICH CAN
SOMETIMES SORT
OF CLARIFY THE
SITUATION FOR
PEOPLE.




IT'S CALLED THE
LIFE REVIEW.

YOU KNOW
WHEN YOU'RE DYING
AND YOUR WHOLE LIFE
FLASHES BEFORE YOUR
EYES? IT'S LIKE
THAT, ONLY...

...LATER,
USUALLY.

I...
I DON'T
WANT--!

DON'T BE
SCARED. YOU
MIGHT EVEN
ENJOY IT.



Heeee, THAT'S A
LOT OF STUFF TO
CHOOSE FROM.

I CAN SEE
ALL YOUR LIFE
FROM HERE.

AND IT LOOKS
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT
IT WOULD...

WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN?!

I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE--!



--MY LIFE.

VUP.

THERE
IT IS.

WITH LOTS
OF PEOPLE
FIGHTING.

AND LOTS OF
PEOPLE BEING
CLEVER.

TURN IT OFF!
YOU'LL REGRET
THIS!

JUST BECAUSE
I DID WHAT *HAD*
TO BE DONE--!

WHO ELSE
WAS GOING TO
DO IT?!

--NOT JUDGING.
SERIOUSLY.

OH!
I SEE WHAT
THIS IS!

IF YOU'RE
"DEATH"--!

HEY--

Erm...

THE ATTACK
OF THE BLACK
LANTERNS! THE
DEAD RISING!

THAT'S WHAT
THIS IS ABOUT,
ISN'T IT?! IT WAS
YOU BEHIND
THAT!

OH. YEAH.
I NOTICED
THAT.

IT LOOKED LIKE
THEY WERE ALL HAVING
A GREAT TIME. YOU KNOW,
PEOPLE DO COME BACK
FROM THE DEAD. IT'S
NOT A BIG DEAL.

I AM
KIND OF
BUSY.





ALL RIGHT. THIS
ISN'T GETTING ME
ANYWHERE.

ANGER IS NOT
A CONSTRUCTIVE
RESPONSE TO
THIS SITUATION.
OBVIOUSLY.

SO--



WHAT WOULD
IT TAKE FOR
YOU TO CHANGE
THIS?

WHAT
DO YOU
NEED?

A PONY.
A MAGIC PONY.
A MAGIC PONY
WHO SINGS.



...DO YOU MEAN...LITERALLY?
IS THAT SOME KIND OF
CREATURE THAT--?

SORRY.
I WAS
JOKING.



I MEAN, WHAT DO I...
NEED? IT'D BE NICE
IF THERE *WAS*
SOMETHING.

SORRY.
I ALWAYS FIND
"BARGAINING" THE
HARDEST OF THESE
STAGES TO DEAL
WITH.



I'VE MET
LOTS OF MAGIC
PONIES. EVEN
SINGING ONES.

I'VE MET
EVERYBODY.









YOU'RE GETTING
THROUGH THESE
"STAGES OF GRIEF"
REALLY FAST--

--AND
THE NEXT
STAGE...

IT'S MEANT TO BE
ACCEPTANCE?

SO--



I DON'T DO
"ACCEPTANCE"!

THERE *MUST* BE
SOME WAY OUT
OF THIS!


I'M LEX
LUTHOR,
DAMN IT!

WOO.
OKAY...



TIME
OUT.

WHAT?!
WHERE--?



HAVE WE
MOVED ON
TO--?!

NOPE. THIS IS JUST
SOMEWHERE WE CAN
TALK...PRIVATELY.


IF YOU NEED
THE SCIENCE BIT,
I THINK IT'S ONE OF
THOSE ROLLED-UP
DIMENSIONS.



WHAT?

WASN'T BEING
OUTSIDE TIME
ENOUGH?

WHY DOES
"DEATH" WANT
TO "TALK
PRIVATELY"?



WELL, MAYBE I
THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE FUN TO HEAR
YOUR OPINIONS
ABOUT...

...Y'KNOW...

...THE
AFTERLIFE?

SOME PEOPLE
THINK THAT *WHATEVER*
HAPPENS AFTER YOU DIE...
YOU'LL GO WHERE YOU'RE
MEANT TO GO.



WILL I?



WHO SAYS?

IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO JUDGE ME?

THEY'D HAVE TO HAVE SOME... OBJECTIVE POINT OF VIEW ON THE UNIVERSE.

AND WE...WE KNOW THERE IS NO SUCH POINT OF VIEW.

WE KNOW THAT FROM SCIENCE.



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN ATHEIST.

BELIEVERS ALWAYS SEEMED TO ME TO BE... DECLINING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES...

I'M SURE YOU HAVE A POINT OF VIEW ON THIS--

SURE. KIND OF. NOT REALLY. NOT IN THE WAY THAT YOU'RE THINKING.



IN A COSMOS LIKE OURS--

--IF YOU ACCEPT THE "BIG HAND THEORY" OF THE UNIVERSE'S ORIGIN--

--DECIDING ON ATHEISM ISN'T A LOGICAL CHOICE. IT'S AN ETHICAL ONE.

SO I WANT TO KNOW--!



IF THERE IS A GOD--

--IF HE TURNS OUT TO BE...A LITTLE MAN IN A BOWLER HAT OR SOMETHING--

--DO I AT LEAST GET TO PUT FORTH MY CASE?

DO I GET TO ARGUE?





BECAUSE
I KNOW--

I KNOW
HELL IS
REAL.

I'VE
BEEN
THERE.



HOW
ABOUT IF YOU
JUST...

SAID
"SORRY"?



SORRY FOR
WHAT?

I COULD
OFFER SOME
CLARIFICATION,
SOME INSIGHTS
AS TO MY
MOTIVATION--



--BUT THAT'S
NOT THE SORT
OF GROVELING
THAT'S
REQUIRED--

--IS IT?

YOU KNOW,
LBX, I DON'T
NORMALLY DEAL IN
HYPOTHETICALS.

I MEAN,
I'M WHEN YOU FIND
OUT. BUT WE COULD
AT LEAST IMAGINE
YOUR OPTIONS. WHAT
DO YOU THINK OF...



--YOUR OWN
HEDONISTIC
PARADISE?


WOW. I'VE
ACTUALLY NOT
SEEN SOME
OF--

THAT'S
NOT THE
REAL HER.

I KNOW.

THAT'S WHAT
MAKES THIS SO
INTERESTING.

I SUPPOSE
I'D SAY--



--"IS
THAT IT?"

THOSE ARE
DISTRACTIONS.
NOT WHAT I LIVE
FOR.

EVEN THE--?
WITH THE--?

YES,
EVEN
THAT.

YOU SHOULD HAVE
SEEN THE VERSION
ABOUT YOU KILLING
SUPERMAN.



OKAY.

HERE'S THE
BIGGIE.

WHAT IF
I SAID YOU COULD
HAVE--

--BRILLIANT,
LOVELY BLISS
FOREVER?

A CONTINUAL
BEST-EVER WARM BATH
OF AWESOMENESS, WITH
A PERPETUAL SIDE ORDER
OF FAMILIAL, ROMANTIC,
AND EVEN PET LOVE AND
ACCEPTANCE.

A SUMMER'S DAY
IN A MEADOW WITH
AN EVERLASTING CUP
OF TEA AND EVERY
BOOK.



NO WORRIES,
NO TENSION, JUST...
TRUCKLOADS
OF JOY!

NOT
JUST FOR
YOU--

--BUT FOR
EVERYONE?

Hmph.
I'D SAY--

--"WHAT'S
THE CATCH?"

I THINK
I'D SPEND
FOREVER
LOOKING
FOR ONE.

LISTEN--

--I'M NOT GOING
TO PARTICIPATE IN
THIS "PROCESS"
OF YOURS.


I'M
NEVER GOING
TO ACCEPT
IT--



--I'M NOT
GOING TO BOW
MY HEAD.


TO
ANYONE.

SO--



--DO WHAT
YOU'RE GOING
TO DO.

SEND ME
WHERE YOU'RE
GOING TO
SEND ME.



I'LL FIND
SOMETHING
TO DO.


I'LL FIND
SOMETHING
TO WIN.

EVEN
WHEN I'M
DEAD.



LEX.
THIS ISN'T *THAT*
CONVERSATION.

THIS
IS MORE OF
A PRELIMINARY
CHECK ON
SOMETHING--



I NEVER SAID
YOU WERE
DEAD.

BUT I'LL
BE SEEING
YOU.

WHAT--?!

DO
YOU MEAN
THAT--?!



"WHAT IS WAITING FOR ME IN THE FUTURE?"

MEANWHILE, AROUND 1000 YEARS AGO...(!)

WHAT DO YOU SEE, SPEARHAVOC?

MY LORD VANDAL SAVAGE...I SEE... DEATH.

GOOD, GOOD!

AFTER ALL, IT CANNOT BE MINE!

THE HANGED MAN WILL MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT HERE.


HE DOES NOT WISH YOU WELL.

BUT HIS MEDDLING WILL BRING YOU GREAT HAPPINESS.

IT MAY BE CENTURIES BEFORE THESE THINGS COME TO PASS.

THEN WE WILL BE WELL PREPARED...

I'LL TELL THE MASTER MASON HE CAN BEGIN...



...CONSTRUCTION
OF THE CITY. A CITY THAT
SHALL LAST A THOUSAND
YEARS.

A CITY BUILT
UPON THOSE
THINGS.

A CITY OF
WHICH EVERY
DETAIL...

...SHALL BE
A TRAP!

NEXT: THE SAVAGE YEARS.

YOU KNOW, I LIKE
TO THINK I'M A
PRETTY FUN GUY.

SUPER-OUTGOING.

THE LIFE OF
THE PARTY.

WHAT
WAS THAT
NOISE?!

BUT TODAY,
FOR SOME
REASON--

THIS IS
WHERE YOU
WORK? LOOKS
DUMB.

THIS IS
BORING.
I WANNA GO
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

NO, NO, NO--
HEY, I'LL JUST
TAKE THOSE...

WHAT?
NO, I'M GOOD.
JIMMY, JIMMY.
LOOK AT ME.
I'M GOOD.

BUT I GUESS
WE COULD STAY
HERE A LITTLE
WHILE...

OH, YEAH,
ABOUT THAT--

TODAY, I
SHOULD'VE JUST
STAYED HOME.
HOME WITH MY
COUCH AND MY
VIDEO GAMES AND
MY NOT-GETTING-
LADYHANDLED-BY-
INTERGALACTIC-
LINDSAYS...

OKAY, SO REMEMBER THAT ALIEN INVASION I WAS SUPPOSED TO SAVE METROPOLIS FROM?

TURNS OUT, THE INVADING-- NOT SO MUCH.

I'D RATHER DANCE WITH YOU THAN VAPORIZE YOU.

SEE, OLSEN? NOW IF THAT'S NOT AN INVITATION, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS, YOU LUCKY BUM!

INSTEAD OF AN ARMY, THIS WAS A DIPLOMATIC ENVOY, SENT TO METROPOLIS BECAUSE--

YOU GOT GOOD-LOOKING WOMEN.

UGH! ARE YOU KIDDING?

WELL, TO BE FAIR, THEY PUT IT A LITTLE BETTER THAN THAT.

GREETINGS! I AM DURVELLA CWIN, HIGH PRINCESS OF THE DALWYTH SYSTEM.

EVERY FOUR YEARS, OUR PEOPLE CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE TYRANNY OF THE *ALCINI METEOR LORDS* WITH A GALA CELEBRATION!

OUR SELECTION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN TRAVELING ACROSS THE UNIVERSE IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT PLACE TO HOST NEXT YEAR'S EVENT--A LOCATION THAT OFFERS LIMITLESS EXCITEMENT, ENERGY, AND GLAMOUR!

SO WE CAME HERE, TO METROPOLIS, TO SEE IF IT LIVED UP TO ITS PROUD BILLING AS THE CITY OF TOMORROW!

AND WE HEARD THE D.J. AT THIS PLACE TONIGHT WAS GOOD.

MAYOR FLEMING,
SPEAKING AS A REPRESENTATIVE
FOR MR. LUTHOR, LEXCORP, AND
ITS AFFILIATED POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEES--

--WE *HIGHLY*
RECOMMEND WE DO ALL
THAT WE CAN TO CONVINCE THE
DALWYTHIANS TO HOLD THEIR
CELEBRATION HERE.

OH YEAH,
MR. MALLORY?

ABSOLUTELY. EVER SINCE
SUPERMAN ABANDONED METROPOLIS,
TOURISM HAS DROPPED 45 PERCENT,
ALMOST OVERNIGHT. WE *USED* TO BE
THE CITY OF TOMORROW--NOW THEY'RE
CALLING US "THE CITY WHERE YOU WILL
BELIEVE A MAN CAN FLY AWAY FROM."

THIS CELEBRATION
COULD BRING MILLIONS
OF VISITORS--AND
THEIR WALLETS--INTO
THE CITY. THINK OF
THE BOON IT WILL BE
TO OUR HOTELS AND
RESTAURANTS.

AND THINK HOW
GRATEFUL ALL THOSE
REGISTERED VOTERS
WILL BE TO *YOU* FOR
SAVING THE LOCAL
ECONOMY IN THEIR
DARKEST HOUR.

Hmm.

MAYOR FLEMING,
I'M NOT SURE--

OLSEN, PLEASE! THINK OF
OTHER PEOPLE FOR ONCE!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE
NOT JUST DISAPPOINTED THAT
A SOLUTION HAS PRESENTED
ITSELF THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE
PUNCHING OR SHOOTING A
RAYGUN AT SOMETHING?

I MEAN REALLY, MA'AM...
IMAGINE IF METROPOLIS
HAD BEEN THIS
INHOSPITABLE THE LAST
TIME WE GOT A FRIENDLY
VISITOR FROM A
FAR-AWAY PLANET!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
BUT I WANT *YOU TWO*
TO HANDLE THIS--
COUPLE A' YOUNG GUYS,
UPSTANDING CITIZENS,
YOU'LL DO JUST FINE.
TAKE 'EM AROUND THE
CITY, SHOW 'EM A GOOD
TIME, DO WHATEVER
IT TAKES.

ME? MA'AM,
I DON'T THINK
I SHOULD--

I HAVE TO
AGREE, MA'AM. OLSEN
IS HARDLY FIT FOR AN
ASSIGNMENT LIKE THIS--
HIS IDEA OF A GOOD TIME
THESE DAYS IS ICING
HIS GAMER THUMB.

ENOUGH! I DON'T WANNA
HEAR ANY MORE. THE ALIEN
GIRL THINKS OLSEN'S CUTE,
SO OLSEN'S ON THE TEAM.
PERIOD.

I HEREBY APPOINT
YOU CO-HEADS OF THE
DALWYTHIAN DELEGATION
WELCOMING COMMITTEE.
DON'T SCREW
THIS UP!





AND YOU'RE REALLY GOING?

NOT LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE, TOO--AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE COVERING SEBASTIEN ALL WEEK?



SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT CAME UP. YOU KNOW, REAL JOURNALISM STUFF. BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY SEEN THE GUY ORDER HIS DRINK WRONG, I DOUBT I'M MISSING MUCH.

AND THEN HERE YOU ARE, ANSWERING MY PHONE CALLS.



DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF. I'VE ALREADY USED TWO QUOTES FROM THIS CONVERSATION IN MY STORY ON THE ALIEN DELEGATION.

WHEN'S THAT COME OUT?



YOU MEAN GO ONLINE? IT JUST DID.

ALREADY?



ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF NOT WORKING FOR A DINOSAUR, JIMMY.

I HAD A DINOSAUR FOR A PET ONCE! YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO FEED THOSE THINGS!



AND TO THINK I ONCE TOLD MYSELF BREAKING UP WITH YOU MEANT NEVER HAVING TO HEAR THAT STORY AGAIN.

ZING. LISTEN, I ACTUALLY DO NEED YOUR HELP. SOMETHING ABOUT THESE DALWYTHIANS ISN'T ADDING UP FOR ME.

YOU THINK MAYBE YOU COULD DO SOME REPORTERLY STUFF, FIND OUT THEIR STORY?



DO YOU EVER GET ANNOYED AT HOW FAR AHEAD OF YOU I AM?

ALL THE TIME, ACTUALLY.





I'LL WH--
I'LL GET US
SOMETHING FROM
THE BAR.



WHAT IS
THIS?

MAN, YOU
DON'T KNOW
FOOTBALL? THIS IS
THE METROPOLIS
METEORS VERSUS
THE GOTHAM
GOLIATHS.

MY OWN PEOPLE
HAVE FOUGHT
METEOR LORDS
AS WELL--

YEAH, WELL,
THE GOLIATHS GOT NO O-LINE,
AND OUR METEORS HAVE THE
BEST DEFENSE IN THE LEAGUE.
SO THEY CAN SUCK IT.

AND YET
STILL THEY
FIGHT...



SO HOW'S IT
GOING OVER
THERE?

YOU KNOW WHAT,
CHLOE, MAYBE I WAS
BEING A LITTLE PARANOID.
I DON'T THINK WE REALLY
NEED TO WORRY ABOUT
THEM, THEY SEEM
HARMLESS ENOUGH.

SO YOU'RE
SAVING VEIL-GIRL
TURNED OUT TO
BE HOT.



WELL, YOU MIGHT
APPRECIATE THIS FUN
FACTOID, THEN. I THINK
I FIGURED OUT WHY THEY
WANT METROPOLIS FOR
THEIR LITTLE PARTY.

SEE, THE DALWYTH
SYSTEM'S MAINWORLD
HAS A PRETTY UNIQUE
AND--FOR US--HIGHLY
TOXIC ATMOSPHERE.

BUT THANKS
TO THEIR STRONGER
RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS,
THEY CAN HANDLE OUR
ATMOSPHERE IN SMALL
DOSES, THOUGH IT DOES
SLIGHTLY IMPAIR THEIR
BRAIN FUNCTION,
COORDINATION, MOBILITY,
YADDA YADDA...

WAIT,
YOU'RE
SAVING--



YEP.
OXYGEN GETS
THEM DRUNK.

HAVE
FUN WITH
THAT,
CHAMP.





ONE DEAFENING CRASH
SOUND EFFECT LATER...



**NEXT
MONTH:**
**JIMMY OLSEN,
BUZZKILL!**



This



is happening



right now!

That's right, DC Nation, Death is making her appearance in ACTION COMICS #894 right now! What is she saying to Lex Luthor? Go grab the issue and find out. This is just part of an epic storyline Paul Cornell and Pete Woods have been weaving in ACTION so now is the time to see what everybody has been buzzing about. As a bonus you'll get to read the next chapter in the new Jimmy Olsen co-feature by Nick Spencer, RB Silva & Denis Frieras! So stop reading this and go pick up a copy of ACTION COMICS #894, unless you're reading this in the back of ACTION COMICS #894 in which case we hope you enjoyed the issue!

Be seeing you,

— Ian Sattler, Senior Story Editor DCU

DC NATION

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www.sfi.org PWC-SI-KDC-260

ACTION COMICS #894, December, 2010. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 308, Croydon, NY 10820. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) \$29.99. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST # R125871972. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2010 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber. Printed by Quad/Graphics, Montreal, QC, Canada. 18/20/10.

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BATMAN
INCORPORATED™

BRUCE WAYNE LIVES!

A NEW ONGOING SERIES
WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY
DAVID FINCH
INKS BY
SCOTT WILLIAMS

BATMAN THE DARK KNIGHT

NOVEMBER 2010

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BATMAN
INCORPORATED

THE NEXT STAGE OF EVOLUTION FOR THE DARK KNIGHT!



BATMAN
INCORPORATED

A NEW ONGOING SERIES

WRITTEN BY

GRANT MORRISON

ILLUSTRATED BY

YANICK PAQUETTE

NOVEMBER 2010

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**BRUCE WAYNE MAY BE BACK...
BUT DICK GRAYSON IS**

**GOTHAM
CITY'S
DARK
KNIGHT!**

BATMAN

BEGINNING WITH ISSUE #704
WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY
TONY DANIEL

NOVEMBER 2010

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BATMAN
INCORPORATED

**SHE'S BACK
BECAUSE
YOU
DEMANDED IT!**

BATWOMANTM #0

A SPECIAL ONE-SHOT THAT
LEADS INTO THE NEW ONGOING
SERIES WRITTEN BY
**J.H. WILLIAMS III &
W. HADEN BLACKMAN**

ILLUSTRATED BY
**J.H. WILLIAMS III
AND AMY REEDER**

NOVEMBER 2010

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THE CREATORS OF VERTIGO'S
AMERICAN VAMPIRE AND
THE LOSERS TAKE ON
**THE DARK
KNIGHT!**

BATMAN[®] **DETECTIVE** COMICS[®]

BEGINNING WITH
ISSUE # 871

WRITTEN BY

**SCOTT
SNYDER**

ILLUSTRATED BY

JOCK

COMMISSIONER
GORDON

SECOND FEATURE BY

**SCOTT SNYDER &
FRANCESCO
FRANCAVILLA**

NOVEMBER 2010

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A stylized illustration of Superman's chest and a clenched fist. The chest is covered in a black suit with a large red 'S' shield. The fist is blue and white, clenched in a power grip. The background is a bright yellow sun.

SMALL TOWN.
BIG PROBLEMS.

A BRAND-NEW ONGOING SERIES

SUPERBOY

WRITTEN BY **JEFF LEMIRE** ART BY **PIER GALLO**
COVERS BY **RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE** AND **PHIL NOTO**

NOVEMBER 2010

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They call him charming... *Beast Charming.*

